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1st Session

SENATE

REPORT
101-115

ULYSSES S. GRANT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

AUGUST 30, 1989.—Ordered to be printed

Filed under authority of the order of the Senate of August 2 (legislative day, January 3), 1989

Mr. JOHNSTON, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 1529]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the act (H.R. 1529) to provide for the establishment of the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site in the State of Missouri, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the act do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

The purpose of H.R. 1529, as ordered reported, is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire, by donation, the White Haven property in St. Louis County, Missouri, for the establishment of the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

The White Haven estate, the former residence of President Ulysses S. Grant, is located on approximately 9.65 acres southwest of St. Louis in a heavily wooded, suburban residential neighborhood. The house was built in 1808 by William Long, a Revolutionary War soldier. In 1821 the property was sold to Colonel Frederick Dent, who named the estate "White Haven," after his Maryland plantation.

One of Dent's sons, Frederick T. Dent, was Grant's roommate while they attended West Point. After graduating, Grant was stationed at the Jefferson Barracks, outside of St. Louis. While visiting the Dent family, Grant met their daughter, Julia. They became

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engaged in May 1845, a few months after meeting. At this time Grant's unit was assigned to Louisiana, where he remained until 1848, fighting in the U.S.-Mexican conflict.

Grant returned to Missouri in 1848 and married Julia soon thereafter. From 1848 until 1854, Grant served at various military posts around the country. In 1854 Grant resigned from the Army and returned to White Haven. Colonel Dent assigned 80 acres of White Haven to Grant, who attempted to farm there until 1860. The farming attempt proved unsuccessful, and after a business venture also failed, Grant left White Haven for Illinois.

The following year, the Civil War broke out and Grant re-enlisted in the Army. During the war, General Grant acquired the entire White Haven estate, totaling over 1,000 acres. Grant made plans to retire to White Haven after the war. However, after the war, Grant and his family moved to Washington, although Grant continued to own and maintain White Haven. Grant finally sold White Haven in 1885, a year prior to his death, when his son's banking venture failed. Grant had pledged all of his assets in support of the venture, and lost everything upon its collapse.

Most of the White Haven estate was sold by the owners during the next several years. In 1986, St. Louis County purchased the home and 9.65 acres of land at a cost of approximately $500,000. That year the site was designated as a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior. The county is willing to donate the site to the United States for designation as a National Historic Site.

Although Grant never returned to live at White Haven, it is the residence most closely associated with his life, and that of his wife.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

H.R. 1529 was introduced on March 31, 1989, by Representative Gephardt. The bill passed the House of Representatives by a voice vote on June 20, 1989. Similar legislation, S. 518, was introduced in the Senate on March 6, 1989, by Senators Bond and Danforth. The Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests conducted a hearing on H.R. 1529 on July 19, 1989.

At the business meeting on August 2, 1989, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered H.R. 1529 favorably reported.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AND TABULATION OF VOTES

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on August 2, 1989, by a unanimous vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass H.R. 1529, as described herein.

The rollcall vote on reporting the measure was 19 yeas, 0 nays, as follows:

YEAS	NAYS
Mr. Johnston	
Mr. Bumpers	
Mr. Ford	
Mr. Metzenbaum*	
Mr. Bradley	

Mr. Bingaman*
Mr. Wirth
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Heflin
Mr. Rockefeller
Mr. McClure
Mr. Hatfield
Mr. Domenici
Mr. Wallop
Mr. Murkowski
Mr. Nickles
Mr. Burns
Mr. Garn
Mr. McConnell*

*Indicates voted by proxy.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1 establishes the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site near St. Louis, Missouri.

Section 2 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire, by donation, the White Haven estate. The Secretary is also authorized to acquire, by purchase or donation, personal property directly associated with White Haven or President and Mrs. Grant.

Section 3 provides that the White Haven property shall be administered in accordance with the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System.

Section 4 authorizes the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The Congressional Budget Office estimate of the costs of this measure has been requested but was not received at the time the report was filed. When the report is available, the Chairman will request it to be printed in the Congressional Record for the advice of the Senate.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 1529. The Act is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards of significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy.

Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of H.R. 1529, as reported.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

On June 23, 1989, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources requested legislative reports from the Department of the Interior and the Office of Management and Budget setting forth the executive views on H.R. 1529. These reports had not been re-

ceived at the time the report was filed. When the views become available, the Chairman will request that they be printed in the Congressional Record for the advice of the Senate. The testimony provided by the National Park Service at the Subcommittee hearing follows:

STATEMENT OF GERALD D. PATTEN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ON H.R. 1529

Mr. Chairman, it is indeed a pleasure to appear before you this morning to discuss H.R. 1529, a bill which would establish the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site in the vicinity of St. Louis, Missouri. We are fully cognizant of the historic value of this property and believe it has the potential to be a fitting addition to the National Park System. However, we cannot support enactment of H.R. 1529 until a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing such a new unit is completed.

If enacted as passed by the House of Representatives, H.R. 1529 would establish the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site near St. Louis as depicted on a cited boundary map. It would provide for the National Park Service to accept the real property known as White Haven by donation and to acquire any personal property by donation or purchase with donated or appropriated funds. Cooperative agreements with adjacent landowners for parking and access would be authorized. Finally, there would be authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to accomplish the purposes for which the park would be created.

White Haven, the home of President and Mrs. Grant, is an estate of approximately 9.65 acres located southwest of St. Louis, Missouri in an unincorporated portion of St. Louis County. The estate is surrounded by a heavily wooded, suburban residential neighborhood known as Grantwood Village and by Grant's Farm, a 281-acre estate owned by August Busch, which includes an animal preserve and a theme park open to the public.

There are five buildings of historic interest on the property: the main house built in the late 1790's or early 1800's; the former slave quarters, of an unknown era; a storage shed built around 1910; a smoke/ice house, built aroung 1875; and a barn, also dating from the 1870's. The property is surrounded by a six-foot high chain-link fence overgrown with foliage.

White Haven was designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior in June 1986. This designation illustrates its national significance in several categories. First and foremost, White Haven is intimately associated with the life and career of one of the great captains of military history and 18th President of the United States, Ulysses S. Grant.

White Haven was the setting for Grant's crucial pre-Civil War years. It was during this time that his strength of character was forged in the fires of adversity.

White Haven was also the home of members of old and very successful St. Louis families, who were among those that played instrumental roles in our nation's expansion westward and in the early growth of St. Louis.

Were Grant, like his counterpart General Lee, merely a peerless military leader, the very father of modern military warfare, who won on the field of battle the struggle that Lincoln led, this property would merit preservation and interpretation to the public. But Grant was also the President of the United States whose leadership during two terms in office guaranteed to his Party a series of victories in politics almost as profound as the triumphs he had won in battle assuring him a place in history as a successful political leader also. White Haven is the only intact setting appropriate for the commemoration of the entire range of his heroic deeds and public service.

Mr. Chairman, we understand that public spirited individuals and corporations in the St. Louis area have purchased White Haven to ensure its preservation. Their generosity runs to about $500,000. We estimate that one-time restoration efforts might cost in the neighborhood of $1 million, including planning and bricks-and-mortar, and that annual operating and maintenance expenses to make the property available for public visitation could approach $400,000.

Mr. Chairman, in October 1985 we advised one of the sponsors of this bill, Representative Gephardt, that a study of the feasibility and suitability of White Haven as a potential unit of the National Park System should be completed before authorizing such a unit. Consistent with the National Park Service's Management Policies, such a study would investigate a range of potential management alternatives for White Haven, including cooperative management between the county, State and Federal governments. Such a partnership approach could reduce rehabilitation and operating costs. We expect such a study could be completed within one year and would cost between $75,000 and $100,000.

This concludes my prepared statement, Mr. Chairman. I will be pleased to respond to your questions at this time or provide additional information for the record.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by the Act, H.R. 1529, as reported.

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